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THE

# RAGGED SCHOOL UNION

# MAGAZINE.

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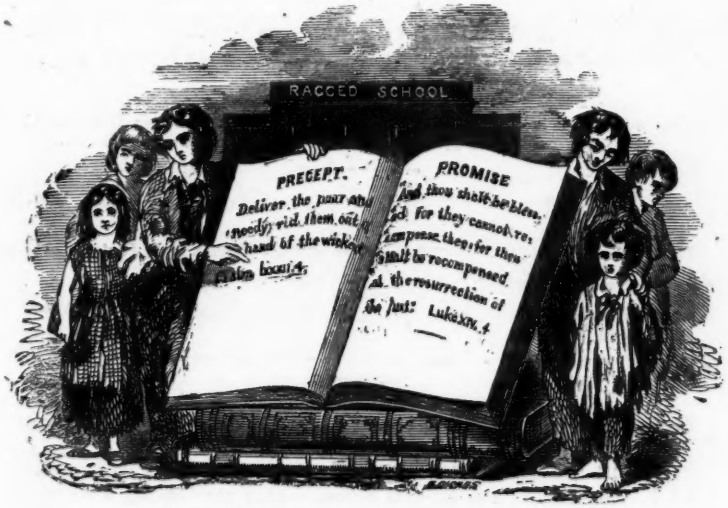


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## NOTICE TO RAGGED SCHOOL OFFICERS & FRIENDS.

THE Committee of the Ragged School Union are holding a series of Conference Meetings in various parts of the metropolis, for the purpose of considering the means needful to adopt to bring under instruction a larger number of neglected and destitute Children than at present attend the Ragged Schools in London.

The Meetings in the South and West of London were held on June 22, 24, 27, and 29; in the East and North of London, they will be held in the School Rooms in Smith Place, Commercial Road, on July 5; in Bacon Street, on July 11; in Rufford's Buildings, on July 13; in Field Lane, on July 20.

Tea and Coffee at each Meeting at 6·30, and Chair taken at 7 o'clock.

It will greatly facilitate the object the Sub-Committee have in view in holding these Conference Meetings, if the friends of the Schools would come prepared with information on the following points, viz.:—

I. What localities in your section require new Ragged Schools to be formed?

II. What School buildings now in use can be further employed by opening them on—

1. Sunday Afternoon.
2. Sunday Evening.
3. Week Days.
4. Week Evenings.

What efforts can be made in your section to increase the number of Voluntary Teachers?

# URGENT CASE.

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Donations will be thankfully received by

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# Papers, Original and Selected.

## ABROAD AND AT HOME:

### A GLANCE AT THE MAY CAMPAIGN.

It must have been a gladsome sight when, in the days of Israel's glory, the tribes went up to the Holy City to keep the three great festivals appointed by God. As they ascended the hills of Judea, and height after height was scaled, and when at eve they pitched their tents under a palm-grove and beside the living springs, the very hills became vocal with their holy melodies. It is probable that during these pilgrimages they sang the "Songs of Degrees," —those fifteen connected psalms from the 120th to the 134th inclusive—which have since cheered many a sorrowing pilgrim on his homeward march. How jubilant their strain, even before they caught sight of the City of the Great King,—"Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem!" Until, in the climax, when the eastward and southward caravans had united, and they stood in the court of that Temple whose outward adornment paled before the glory of the Shekinah within, they heard the priestly benediction—nay, brother gave it to brother—"Jehovah, who made heaven and earth, bless thee out of Zion!"

There is no such central city or shrine now. All united worship, too, whether with or without prescribed forms, is voluntary; for, springing from needs taught by the Holy Spirit, it is not now based on legal obedience. Worship is spiritual and not outward—the heart rendering a reverence words or forms would be poor to depict. Thus, instead of a Jewish temple with prescribed sacrifices and a gorgeous ritual, all who love Jesus, whether Jew or Gentile, are grafted into one family, and thus compose a portion of that third section of the human race—namely, the Church (1 Cor. x. 22)—into which man since the ascension of Christ has been divided. Hence it is that all social distinction, and even the landmarks of nationalities, fall before the oneness that is in Christ of all believers. For, as that illustrious man Garibaldi lately said, "We are all sons of the same God"; and hence not only of the blood-royal of heaven, but to be recognised as kings in the day of Christ.

If, then, the Visible Church has no tri-yearly convocation, it has

at least its annual gathering of the workers for Christ. Then we meet our brother labourers not so much to hear what man has done as to learn what the Holy Ghost has effected through their weak agency. For as it was on the day of Pentecost, so is it now; for men from the deserts of Arabia, the ice-bound shores of Labrador, and the palm-groves of India, assemble to "speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." Not only in England, but in America, France, Germany, and even Italy—wherever, in fact, the pure Gospel is preached—there do the labourers in Christ's vineyard rejoice to meet their fellow-workers, and to recount the failures and the successes of the bygone year. Many a Christian worker, illustrious in his own special field of labour—a Duff, a Livingstone, or a Moffatt—then meets his fellow-worker in very different spheres of usefulness, and receives a brother's greeting. These assemblies are known in England by the pleasant name of "The May Meetings." And surely no period could be better selected than at the budding of another spring; when the "winter is past," and when we hear His voice saying, "Let my beloved come unto his garden and eat his pleasant fruits." And very pleasant and refreshing they are to the soul; for whenever or wherever the Lord planteth, the trees are full of sap and flourishing.

And what a picture these May Meetings present of the active religious life of England! and they are but an outward index, we believe, of the internal motive power which keeps the evangelizing machinery in action. From a list now before us it appears that no less than ninety meetings were held this year within the period devoted to the May Meetings; a few combining philanthropy with religion, but mostly solely evangelistic. In addition, forty special sermons were preached in connection with anniversary meetings, a moiety being solely for home objects.

It is an error—when not wilful, springing solely from culpable ignorance—to think that these anniversaries mainly pertain to foreign evangelism. We by no means object to the maxim "Charity begins at home"; for we think that, by Divine ordination, it ought to *begin* there, but whether it should *stay* there is quite a distinct question. If, indeed, foreign Christians had acted upon this motto, England would never have been evangelized; and the barbarous Druidical rites of our ancestors would still desolate our fatherland with blood. But they had not so learned Christ as to be content to confine Gospel privileges to themselves, so the groves manured by the blood of innocents speedily fell prone before the

light of the everlasting Gospel. The true canon of evangelization seems to be this—"*Begin* at Jerusalem"; yea, begin at self, then at your family, then at your district, then at your country, and then so outstretch the arms of Christian love that the whole world shall be embraced thereby. Happily, the disciples of Christ have acted on this principle; for, whilst they feel for the spiritual miseries of "Borrioboola Gha"—the worldling's nickname for foreign missions—they have not forgotten the ravages made by sin in their own land. Thus we find, by the list of May Meetings before referred to, that no less than fifty-eight out of the ninety May Meetings were devoted solely to England and Ireland; whilst others, such as the noble Bible Society, are as much for home as for foreign objects. It will be thus seen that those who mourn over Pagan superstition and vice—the latter being but the dark shadow of the former—are the very men who give most and labour hardest for the regeneration of their own countrymen. Whilst those who mock our efforts to save the natives of Fiji or of India, and say, Why waste time and strength on those degraded races, when there are so many moral wastes at home? are the very persons who "take their ease, eat, drink, and are merry," when thousands of juveniles are trained to crime and vice, to whom they neither speak words of kindness nor give words of warning. For, like the priest and the Levite, when they see our youth robbed and stripped by the robbers of Jericho, they pass by on the other side, leaving the despised evangelicals to do not only their own special work, but that of society also.

The aggregate sum contributed to the various home and foreign missionary societies is large, exceeding as it does £1,000,000 per annum. From the accounts rendered at the May Meetings it would appear that about £525,000 were devoted last year to foreign evangelization. £35,737 were given to the various colonial missions; in other words, for the spiritual welfare of Britons who have found a home at the ends of the earth, but who are Britons still. Again, £43,597 were subscribed to evangelize that singular race of whom it is declared by the Holy Spirit that "they are beloved for the Father's sake," and who, through Gentile "mercy, are also to obtain mercy" (Rom. ii. 28, 31) in the latter day. But in addition to the amount thus devoted to Pagans and Jews, £210,792 were contributed directly for *home* missions to the central societies, to say nothing of what was subscribed on the spot. The residue of the £1,000,000, it appears from the same report, was expended on missionary objects—partly home, and partly foreign. But however

spent, whether at home or abroad, all was expended in recognition of the great Biblical truth that, whatever their tongue, and however diverse in moral aspect, all men are children of the same Great Father, and in conformity with the injunction of the Christian lawgiver, "Preach the Gospel to *every* creature."

Of the sum contributed to the central societies for home evangelization, we are glad to find that about £67,639 were given directly for the education of the poor—the Ragged School Union, with its 175 affiliated institutions, receiving about a moiety of that amount. And surely, if the maxim, "Charity begins at home," be anything more than a pretext for lazily folding the arms whilst the world is perishing, the poor and the forlorn have the first claim on Christian benevolence. Not only are Ragged Schools a direct work for Christ, but that specific form of work seems to be akin to the very kind of labour in which he was engaged during the days of his flesh. Passing by the stiff, formal Pharisee, and, if possible, the still prouder Sadducee, his every-day mission was to preach to that class of whom it is declared, "The *common people* heard him gladly." It is no wonder, then, speaking such words of tenderness and hope as he did, that his flock was composed of such persons as the fallen woman of Samaria and the fishermen of Galilee. Nor have his feelings towards the poor of the flock changed, for he left this injunction for the guidance of every Ragged School teacher,—"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

It is true that this commission was either forgotten or overlooked by the Church for many a long year; but this indifference to its duties assuredly did not arise from the fact, that Christians were so engrossed by foreign missions as to forget to "show piety at home." It is, indeed, remarkable that the very era that saw the origin of the societies for foreign evangelization was the very period when home missions for adults and Sunday Schools for juveniles were projected. Not long after, the thought of reclaiming the wild tribes of our great cities was suggested to various persons, who worked in various districts, without any prior concert—not, in fact, even knowing that other Christians were engaged in the same task of civilizing and saving our social outlaws and our neglected youth. For it was discovered—and to the Holy Spirit must be ascribed this insight into a truth scarcely before discerned—that the same Gospel which had tamed the cannibal was equal to the reclamation of the juve-

nile criminals and outcasts of London. Thus Christian men, in despite of sneer or calumny, penetrated, Bible in hand, into the fever-stricken dens of London, and found that the Gospel of Christ hath not lost its ancient power both to civilize and to convert.

Nor do we think that Ragged Schools have been in fruitage below the aims of their originators. The representative facts presented at the annual meeting of the Ragged School Union supplied ample proofs that when Christ gave Ragged School teachers their special mission, he meant to add his benediction to their labours. For youths who had been nurtured in crime by parents unworthy of the name are now winning their bread honestly at home and abroad; souls leprous with sin have been baptized in the blood that cleanseth, and so added to the "salt" of this evil world; and many a forlorn adult has, through the Parents' Meeting or the Ragged Church, learnt the great truth that there is no one too vile to become the brother of Christ. And so by means of Ragged Schools many a modern phototype of the infanticide Manasseh, and of the harlot Rahab, are now sitting at the feet of Jesus, "clothed and in their right mind."

At some of the recent May Meetings an important question was mooted, namely, whether Christians should either evangelize on their individual responsibility, or be sent out direct by their respective churches; or whether, on the other hand, they should not be sent out as missionaries by some central society. The discussion of this question is scarcely fitted for these pages, yet we think it right to intimate that the Ragged School Union has already adopted a midway course between the two principles under discussion, the wisdom of which its history testifies. Hence it does not interfere with individual responsibility to preach the Gospel to the poor, nor relieve the Christians of any district of their responsibility to illumine the darker parts with the light of the Gospel; for its wise plan is merely to subsidize the local effort by annual or special grants, and thus encourage the local friends to do the Lord's work in their own way. Taking then, as it does, a general oversight of the movement, and suggesting any aggressive machinery it thinks desirable, the Ragged School Union still feels that the success of the affiliated institutions depends mainly on the local friends, and not on its agency. Whilst, then, individual responsibility is placed in the first, and, as we believe, the Bible position, it helps the individual to help himself; and thus it combines the two

principles under discussion, by urging on individuals their personal responsibility, whilst it adds the benefits of a central organization to their personal efforts.

When we think of what has already, through the benediction of the Most High, been achieved by Ragged Schools, we have every reason to believe that the success already vouchsafed will not be confined to the past. With labour for Christ conducted in faith, and nourished by fervent prayer, we cannot doubt that God will still be with us in the difficult task he has assigned. Nor do we doubt that, when the great convocation takes place in the "Heavenly Jerusalem" (Heb. xii. 22, 23), it will be said of many of our strange flock, with their stranger histories, and that with a deeper significance than in old Hebrew times, "Every one of them in Zion appeareth before God" (Psalm lxxxiv. 7). Until that blessed period of rest dawns on a sin-stricken world, let us all, whether working at home or abroad, among the barbarous tribes of Africa or the equally wild tribes of London, ever remember that the injunction of our Divine Master, "Occupy, till I come," is as binding as any other commandment. For, whatever be our special gift, whether it be feeble or stalwart, the poet uttered no mere fancy when he said—

"There is no little child too small
To work for God:
There is a mission for us all
From Christ the Lord.

"The poor, the sorrowful, the old,
Are round us still;
God does not always ask for gold,
But heart and will.

"Father! O give us grace to see
A place for us,
Where in thy vineyard we for thee
May labour thus!"

---

## THE SCHOOL AGENT'S WORK IN THE EAST AND NORTH OF LONDON FOR THE PAST YEAR.

THE Ragged Schools in the east and north of London have been under the visitation of Mr. Curtis for three years. That gentleman has presented a Report of his operations for the third year to the Committee of the Ragged School Union, from which is taken the following extracts:—

The number of school buildings in these districts is 79. The operations conducted in them are as follow:—

Sunday Schools—35 open in the morning, 62 in the afternoon, 43 in the evening.

Day Schools—19 boys, 17 girls, 71 mixed and juvenile.

Week Night Schools—42 boys, 38 girls, 20 mixed and juvenile.

Industrial Classes—4 for boys, and 34 for girls.

43 Penny Banks, with about 12,000 depositors.

31 Clothing Clubs.

15 Bands of Hope, with 1,400 members.

44 Ragged Churches, with attendance about 3,000.

45 Parents' Meetings, with attendance about 1,200.

47 Teachers' Prayer Meetings, with attendance about 700.

24 Bible Classes.

34 School Libraries.

To conduct these there are 1,482 voluntary teachers, 266 paid teachers.

During the past year I have paid the following visits, viz.;—

To Day and Evening Schools, 1,008.

To Local Committee Meetings, 7.

To Public and Social Meetings, 13.

To Mothers' Meetings, 20.

To Conferences on Special Business, 56.

In addition to the special examination of each School in the north and east of London, I have conducted three at the request of their Local Committees.

The new or extended operations during the past year number 32, and consist mostly of Schools, Industrial Classes, and Penny Banks.

## SUNDAY SCHOOLS

In the north and east of London there are 76 institutions having Sunday Schools—

Open in the morning, 35, attendance about 2,300; in the afternoon, 62, attendance about 7,800; in the evening, 43, attendance about 6,200.

It is my practice to make frequent inquiries respecting the attendance of the Day School children at the Sunday School, having the conviction that unless the matter is well watched the attendance will become very irregular. To ascertain the amount of attendance the following plan has been recommended by me. On that day of the week when the attendance is the fullest, the teacher shall call out all those children who were not at School the previous Sabbath; on the first occasion to give them an admonition; on the following week take down the names of the principal delinquents; the following week, if any of these names recur, visit the parents of some few, which will no doubt reveal truanting. Such a plan may not affect the more hardened, but may prevent many falling into the practice of negligent absence or more culpable deceit. The test was applied by me on one occasion. Seventy children were discovered in one school to have been absent from Sunday School. The teacher followed up the plan suggested; in a few weeks the number of absentees was reduced to twenty. These were detained at home by causes somewhat justifiable. Some schools have a scout, whose business it is to visit the streets and induce the loiterers to attend, and also to canvass the neighbourhood from time to time. Such a

practice has been attended with good results. Its general adoption is desirable.

One of our schools has made use of a publication, the *Christian World*, and other of the local press, to advertise its want of teachers. The appeal was successful. Many have come forward. Another school, in unfavourable circumstances for a supply of teachers, and, like some other of our schools, drawing its supply from a distance, having moreover to do with a rough and lawless class, has, nevertheless, owing to the energy of the Superintendent and the heartiness of a few others, almost constantly a good supply of teachers.

Some of our schools have classes for the training of the teachers for their work. This admirable device tends to concentrate attention upon the Sabbath duties. The conduct of such a class in some instances is undertaken by the curate.

A Sunday afternoon school in Whitechapel is so admirably conducted as to justify a brief description. The infants meet in a separate room. The mixed school contains about one hundred children. The classes average from eight to ten to each teacher. At the head of each class is a card with the motto, "My class for Jesus," printed in large type; at the Superintendent's desk a card with the words, "All the school for Jesus." The school is well supplied with teachers, who perform their duties efficiently.

At the close of the address it is the practice every Sunday to propose a question for immediate reply. These are called prize questions. The boy or girl making the reply receives a book. The question does not suggest the answer, but requires a good knowledge of Scripture, fair intelligence, and a ready memory. If the answer is not immediately given, the children are referred to the chapter in which it may be found. These questions are not given on out of the way or curious topics, but on matters connected with Christ and the Christian life.

The teachers of this school, headed by their Superintendent, meet for conference and special prayer every Friday evening.

## DAY SCHOOLS.

In the northern and eastern districts there are 19 boys, 17 girls, and 71 mixed and juvenile schools, with an attendance approaching to 10,000.

*Examinations.*—I have not deemed it prudent to raise the standard at these examinations beyond that adopted last year, as the adoption of a yearly and systematic examination has been too recent to warrant the expectation of any perceptible improvement, and further, if the class entering our schools be the neglected class, it is not fair to expect any great secular results. What I value most are habits of order and obedience, a regard for truth and honesty, above all the inculcation and reception by the heart of those truths which are able to make wise unto salvation. Where these results are obtained the basis of a good character has been laid and a guarantee given for the security of some portion at least of the base of our great social fabric; it being true for all time that wisdom, added to knowledge, gives stability to a nation, and righteousness, that exalteth it. Though, as above stated, the standard has not been raised, it was, nevertheless, applied with more rigour. The number examined was 4,401; of this number,

including monitors, 1,539 read fairly, 1,828 wrote fairly, about 1,000 possessed a ready knowledge of the leading facts of Scripture history and Christian doctrine. In arithmetic, 1,134 performed sums accurately in addition; in subtraction, 812; in multiplication, 500; long division, 182.

I found some able to work the compound rules, and a few able to do reduction, but my attention was principally confined to examinations in the first four simple rules.

School Registers are on the increase and fairly kept. I am hoping to get a statement from the registers of the number of deaths arising from fever, &c., and also the number absent but who recover; these statistics may afford some information as to the sanitary condition of the children's homes.

*Religious Knowledge.*—During the past year the impartation of historical facts, doctrinal truths, and practical statements, has been made more systematic. Salvation through Christ has been connected with sanctification by the Spirit; prayer for the new heart connected with God's promise to bestow it. Passages relating in detail all the characteristics of the sinful and renewed nature, with the injunctions to avoid that which is evil and practise that which is good, have been rehearsed by infant lips, and in many instances repeated with surprising correctness.

I have given continued attention to the class of children entering our schools; am pleased to remark that care is taken by all, and the most scrupulous care is taken by many of the Committees to admit none but those who are either too poor or too indifferent to pay.

In the east of London the Committee of one school places the accompanying form in the hands of their Missionary, who visits all the cases, fills in the form, and appends frequently an opinion as to the suitability of the case for admission to the Ragged School.

Each form is ruled for six names.

_____ *School.* *Date* _____

Name. | Address. | Floor. | No. in Family. | Visitor's Remarks. | Date.

Above 100 children in the districts under my supervision have been removed from our schools during the past year, owing to the circumstance of their parents so improving as to warrant their removal to pay schools.

## EVENING SCHOOLS.

In the north and east of London there are 42 boys', 38 girls', and 20 mixed schools, with an average attendance of upwards of 4,000.

During the past year my labours have been successful in the establishment of three schools, open on four, three, and one evening respectively. One school has of late much improved, both in the attendance and amount of work performed. This desirable result is attributable to the master's coming comparatively fresh to his work. Till recently he was wholly engaged in teaching; he has now only his evening duties. The employment of a teacher whose jaded powers are unequal to the work required is highly detrimental and should, if possible, be prevented.

*Voluntary teachers* have not declined; but, on the contrary, have slightly

increased during the past year; but still the cases are not unfrequent of numbers being refused admittance for want of teachers.

If the harvest is great and the labourers are few, was not the remedy indicated by the great Teacher to his apostles, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest"? Has this injunction received its due attention? May it not be said that ye have not because ye ask not? Special prayer-meetings for an increase of teachers should be invariably held at stated periods in all our Ragged Schools. Those institutions must flourish where there is this vital air.

In connection with the subject of prayer the paper appended will be read with interest:—

TO THE TEACHERS OF THE ——— RAGGED SCHOOL.

My Dear Friends,—Being fully impressed with the great importance of the work in which we are engaged as teachers, and thinking it desirable we should be one in prayer to our Heavenly Father for his blessing to descend upon our labours, I ask you to unite with your brethren and sisters in making the following the subjects of special supplication, with the hope that the poor and outcast may be speedily brought to a saving knowledge of the truth.

Yours in the Gospel,

——— ———

Superintendent.

| Day. | Subject. |
|---|---|
| SUNDAY ..... | The Day's Teaching—That it may be followed by the Divine Blessing. |
| MONDAY ..... | The Parents of our Scholars—That they may be all one in Christ. |
| TUESDAY..... | The Committee and Officers of the School—That they may be wise in counsel, energetic in action. |
| WEDNESDAY.. | The Teachers—That they may have the spirit of wisdom, love, and prayer. |
| THURSDAY ... | The Separate Service and Library—That by hearing and reading our Scholars may come to a knowledge of the truth. |
| FRIDAY ... .. | The Infant and Senior Classes—That the little ones may be early brought to Jesus, and the elder ones led to immediate decision. |
| SATURDAY ... | To-morrow's Lesson—That we may have wisdom to understand, and aptness to teach. |

In addition to the topics for Saturday's prayer we would suggest that prayer should be made for an increase of teachers.

## REFUGES.

The Refuges in my district are six in number: three for boys, and one for girls, in the north; one for boys, and one for girls, in the east. The industrial duties sometimes interfere with the scholastic, but, on the whole, the education, both secular and religious, is well attended to. Gray's Inn Road Industrial School has improved under its present master. The work has been more remunerative. It is a noteworthy matter that one of our Refuges sent out 80 lads to the colonies last year; another admitted 1,197 dormitory cases, who received 62,000 loaves of bread; 67 were provided with constant needlework, 312 were provided with outfits and sent to

domestic service, 92 received into institutions, 21 sent to unions, 27 sent to hospitals, 31 restored to friends, 20 boarded and lodged from the institution until provided for, 2 provided with boxes of goods for sale, 120 provided with different kinds of employment, and George Yard Shelter gave about 600 nights' lodging to poor boys, found many employment, and returned many to their homes.

## INDUSTRIAL CLASSES.

Five schools have introduced these valuable adjuncts during the past year. About 1,500 children in my districts are employed in industrial operations, chiefly needlework, the garments made up in the schools being sold at a reduced rate, in some instances at less than half price. Thus one of our schools in the industrial class made up and disposed of sixty-three garments last year; another industrial evening class made up and disposed of 131 garments. In one school a patching class, conducted on Wednesday afternoons, employs both girls and boys; as many as fifty or sixty may be seen every Wednesday afternoon patching old clothes or making new. The patching, &c., of the boys is quite equal to the girls; many of the boys who have become sailors have acknowledged the great usefulness of this class. To the needle is due those wonderful transformations effected in the appearance of our children. A tidy frock and decent pinafore give a very sightly appearance to a poor child, which frequently causes the astonishment of the casual visitor. I like to see now and then a grimy face, some few in rags, and a sprinkling of naked feet; it shows that we are keeping to the gutter; that the domain of dirt and squalor is being continually invaded. Our insignia are Rags and Nakedness, and seem as distinctive in our work as the standards of respective armies. Upwards of 1,000 from my districts have been sent to situations during the past year.

## PENNY BANKS.

There are forty-four of these useful institutions in the districts under my superintendence, with their 12,000 depositors. One school has added a Penny Bank to its operations, and another has extended its operations. The provident habits developed by this institution may not admit of exact registration, but their creation are none the less certain. The clothing club also is a noticeable feature, tending to decency and neatness, both moral qualities. Their number in North and South London are thirty-one; amount of contributions, £568.

## EDUCATIONAL AIDS.

The large Free Library in connection with Hatfield Street, Golden Lane, is doing great service; it consists of above 1,000 volumes, and has upwards of 500 readers. Fox Court has circulated about 1,600 volumes during the past year; only three volumes were lost. The practice of selling or giving away periodicals is also much on the increase. Thus, one school disposed of 12 Bibles, 4 Testaments, 8 Prayer Books, 200 Hymn Books, 1,200 small magazines, 281 Bands of Ho e, 60 British Workman, 144 Child's Com-

panions, and other small books, making a total of 2,130. Another school disposed of 1,100 periodicals; among them were small magazines, British Workman, and Cassell's Illustrated Bible, History of England, and Natural History.

The practice of giving entertainment by means of the magic lantern continues, and proves to be an unflagging source of amusement. Lectures are delivered weekly or fortnightly during the summer recess in some of our schools, and in many are continued during the winter. These lectures are especially valuable. They advertise the school and make it popular, and tend occasionally to draw to the institution sympathy and support.

## FLOWER SHOWS.

Two of these have been held in connection with one of our schools, the results of which were highly satisfactory. It is to be hoped that such an example will be generally followed. The cultivation of plants and flowers by the poor gives innocent occupation to both parents and children, draws their minds off from gross indulgence, and prepares them for the contemplation of Him who is the First Fair as well as the First Good.

## SANITARY.

Under this head I beg to acknowledge the value of a short but pithy paper in the "Ragged School Union Magazine." Thanks are again due to the ladies of the Sanitary Association for their continued favour. Several schools in the east of London, by their assistance, visited the park, where the children amused themselves with the toys granted by this association. The teachers are paid a trifle for their extra services, and money is also supplied to furnish bread for the hungry. Sickness has been prevalent in our schools this year. In one school during the months of May and June thirty were attacked with small-pox; and during the last three months of the year thirty-six were absent with bad eyes.

The alterations made in several schools have much improved their sanitary condition. In one instance lavatories have been added, and another school has provided baths, with both hot and cold water. The lads belonging to one school have, by the arrangement of some members of the Committee, obtained access to certain swimming baths for the low charge of one half-penny.

The excursions into the country, those by the local schools, and the monster excursion of the Ragged School Union, must be reckoned, however small, as sanitary agents. In connection with this subject as deserving of notice are the visits of the missionaries and district visitors and the kind ladies connected with our Ragged Schools. The scenes they sometimes witness are quite revolting. Two children were discovered during one of these visits quite naked, cowering under their mother's gown, she having pawned their garments.

The amount of work yet to be done is very great. Indeed, so much remains to be done that we appear still at its threshold—some 25,000 children yet to be embraced by the missionary operations of our schools. All

things, then, those around us and those above us, conspire to urge us to increased effort. Things animate and inanimate grow vocal and cry, *On, still on.* The officers of this Union, the noble band of voluntary and paid teachers, having put their hands to this plough, must not look back. Let it suffice for all, as the great moral force, that if we weary not in well-doing we shall reap in due season, if we faint not.

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## RETIREMENT OF DR. GUTHRIE.

THE friends of Ragged Schools throughout the country will, we feel sure, read the following particulars of Dr. Guthrie's resignation of his ministerial duties with feelings of deep regret; and we hope, with earnest prayer, that the affliction may, in God's good providence, be overruled for wise purposes. The tongue's repose may be needful to give free and full action to the pen's power; and in the department of literature, we sincerely trust the Church and the world may for many years possess the valued labours of this much-esteemed servant of the Redeemer.

Dr. Guthrie has written a letter to the congregation of St. John's, Edinburgh, of which he was the pastor, and which fully explains the necessity under which he has acted, and breathes throughout a spirit of masculine resignation and holy tenderness. He says:—"A predecessor of mine in my first charge at Arbirlot dropped dead at the Lord's table with the words of communion on his lips, and its bread in his hand, and, falling on the field, rose to receive the crown, if I may say so, with his armour on. I had hoped to die also in, and not out of, harness—preaching on to the end of life, though with faltering tongue; but God, who knows best, has determined otherwise, and I desire to bow my head, saying, 'Good is the will of the Lord—Father, not my will, but thine be done.'" Having detailed the circumstances which led to this result, Dr. Guthrie makes an announcement which slightly breaks the force of the calamity. "I have no doubt," he says, "to sing of mercy as well as judgment—the burden might have been much heavier; and it lightens it greatly to know that during the few years that may possibly remain I need not lead a useless life; although, indeed, I think no man passes a useless life, who, at God's bidding, stands still, the patient and tranquil spectator of a stage on which he was an actor. The physicians who have put a seal on my lips have not tied up my hands; and thus left free to do what I can with my pen to serve our blessed Master and the best interests of mankind, I hope, when the last summons comes, it will find me working as well as watching. He who has shut one door of usefulness has opened another; and I think it right frankly to explain to you one among many reasons why I regard this as a matter of great thankfulness. It is not only because I will be able still, with God's blessing, to do some good in the world, instead of lying like a worn-out dismasted ship, beached on the shore; but that, like Paul, who earned his bread as a tentmaker that the ministry might not be blamed, I will, so long as my brain and hand can work, be burthensome to none—not but that I think the minister who spends his

health and strength in the public service has as good a right to a retiring allowance as the officer to a pension who has left his sword-arm in the battle-field and walks the street with an empty sleeve." Dr. Guthrie's congregation have made a request to the General Assembly that their pastor, though no longer able to fill the pulpit, may still retain a direct connection with them as counsellor and friend, in reference to which the doctor observes:—"But you have kindly expressed a wish that I should continue, nominally at least, connected with you as a minister of St. John's congregation. Though I may not go out any more to battle, my counsel may be of some use in the tent. If the General Assembly of our church shall refuse your application, however painful to my feelings, I will bow to their decision. If, on the other hand, they sanction the proposed arrangement, I will gladly enter into it, feeling happy to think that no hand but that of death shall sever the tie which has bound us together in Free St. John's for one-and-twenty, and some of us otherwise for nearly seven-and-twenty years. During this long time we have lived in love and brotherhood and unbroken harmony. The memory of these years is very sweet and sacred to me; and, though gone on earth, never in their old form to return, I trust that the fruit of them will be found in heaven." The Rev. Dr. Guthrie concludes this touching epistle in the following words:—"All partings are sad; but in this sad and solemn hour, when, as it were, I leave my place and pulpit for ever, it is a great comfort for me to know that you are not as sheep without a shepherd, scattered on the mountains; and that in my beloved colleague you have one who will watch over your souls with pious and tender care. May the good God have you all in his holy keeping, preserving you, in these days of doubt and change, steadfast in the faith! May his light shine in all your dwellings, and his peace dwell in all your hearts! The Good Shepherd leads his flock by quiet waters and verdant pastures! I commend you all very affectionately to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost; and now, and finally, brethren, farewell. Farewell to you; farewell to my pulpit! I preach no more, the voice is in my ear which says, 'Go thou thy way till the end be; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.'" May the life of this honoured servant of the Lord Jesus Christ be yet spared for many years, and may his mind have that rest and peace which a heavenly hope springing out of large faith and warmed by holy love alone can give! May his affectionate benedictions, having been graciously fulfilled in the spiritual prosperity of his people, graciously return, even as a smile from the Great Father, to his own heart!

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## FIELD LANE RAGGED SCHOOLS AND REFUGES.

At the anniversary meeting of these Schools and Refuges, held on June 1st, some statistics were furnished which created much pleasure at the time, and may be read with great interest, showing as they do the extended operations of that valuable institution.

During the year there had been 110 fresh scholars to the Infant School, 130 fresh scholars to the Boys' School, and 96 fresh scholars to the Girls' School. 102 boys had been sent out to situations, and 60 girls had gone into domestic service during the year. The average attendance at the Evening School for boys holding situations was 70; and the average number of men and boys who attended the Refuge Evening School was 60. There had been 132 fresh scholars to the Girls' Night School for elementary instruction, and the usual attendance was from 70 to 80. There were also Industrial Classes for girls; and at the Mothers' Class the average attendance was 60. There had been 600 depositors to the Penny Bank, amounting to £220 9s. 8d. Prizes were given to the girls who kept in their places beyond certain periods; and a Clothing Society had been established, and 700 articles had been subscribed for. One important fact mentioned in the report was, that there had been educated in the Boys' School 8,425 boys since 1848. The report of the Male Night Refuge stated that there had been received 3,234 strangers, of which number 711 had been provided for, and 2,517 had left for work. In the Female Refuge there had been 2,647 females sheltered from the street, 747 of whom had been provided for. The report further contained the headings—Bible Schools, Ragged Church, Lord's Day Evening Service for Poor Parents, Saturday Evening and Monthly Prayer Meetings, and Bible Women, under each of which a favourable account was given. The Maternal Society was a great boon to the poor. In regard to the finances, the receipts for the year amounted to £4,183 12s. 8d., and the expenditure to £3,739 11s. 11d., leaving a balance of £444 0s. 9d.; but the Committee said that the prospect of being compelled to rebuild the whole premises on another site made the future one of anxiety. In the result the report stated that over 10,000 persons had during the past year shared the blessings of the institution, and 1,695 had been taken from the streets and placed by the Committee in some position where they honourably earned their daily bread. A resolution to the effect that the report be printed and circulated was then moved by J. A. Smith, Esq., M.P., who said that, although he was not practically acquainted with the details of the institution, yet the report had impressed on him a conviction that it was a fair description of the details of a wise, sagacious, careful, and deliberate benevolence. The institution appeared to embrace every need and every claim of human want. It had always appeared to him that Ragged Schools had not met with that general support which their usefulness deserved. Every one who knew what was going on must admit that our national safety and well-doing depended upon the future condition of the labouring and lower classes of the people. If, then, among those classes there should unhappily exist that terrible plague-spot, a mass of homeless, houseless, destitute human beings, it did seem to him to be the plainest dictate of common prudence and common sense to make a general, public, national effort to draw those unhappy beings out of the mire into which vice, or poverty, or adverse circumstances had placed them. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Boyle and unanimously adopted. Lord Shaftesbury observed that the Annual Report of the Field Lane Ragged Schools was always a remarkable document. It was in miniature a financial and political budget of the empire. It was a great statistical document, and there was not a Minister of State who would not derive great profit in first

reading the report of the Ragged Schools, and then coming there and verifying with his own eyes every word he had read in it. His lordship, while expressing his satisfaction at the zeal of those connected with the Field Lane Ragged Schools, lamented the gaps that required to be filled in other parts of the metropolis. It filled him with alarm when he heard that men and women were coming in crowds at the doors of the Ragged Schools praying for admission, where they might be shown the way of life, and that they were sent back because there were no teachers. Was such a state of things, asked the noble earl, to be allowed to go on? The noble earl said he had some right to speak of the great benefits which the Ragged Schools had conferred on the metropolis. That was the twenty-second anniversary of the Field Lane Ragged Schools, and nothing had debarred him from attending every meeting since their institution. He had observed a very great change come over the general demeanour and sentiments of the people of this metropolis. It was impossible, go where they would in the most miserable district, not to observe a general civility and courtesy on the part of the people. Insult and violence were things almost passed away; they were scarcely ever heard. A great deal of that had arisen from the system which had grown up within the last thirty years, of greater intercourse among all classes of the people. It was ascribable not only to Ragged Schools, but to the agency of the Church of England, and of Nonconformists, and all those who for the love of their Lord and Master had gone among the poor and needy to impart to them not only the bread of ordinary sustenance, but the bread of life. The Earl of Shaftesbury having quitted the chair, it was taken by Lord De Blaquiere, and the meeting was then addressed by Mr. H. Vincent, Mr. Chambers, Q.C., the Rev. C. W. Banks, and other gentlemen, in support of the following resolutions, all of which were unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting hears with great satisfaction of the fruit of sound teaching carried on in the Day, Evening, and Bible Schools; while the number of men and women provided for through their own exertions from the male and female Refuges testifies to the power of individual effort, under the blessing of God, in the use of the religious element for the elevation of the humblest and most depraved ranks of life; and that this meeting pledges itself to maintain in full efficiency all these ameliorating operations, by keeping up the funds of the institution, and especially by making efforts to increase the number of annual subscribers. That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to the *Times*, for the generous aid rendered to the institution during the past winter, and to the press generally for its genial interest and support; also to the Auditors, Messrs. Harradine and Hart, for their care in auditing the accounts; and that the following noblemen and gentlemen be the officers and committee for the present year, with power to add to their number. That this meeting, in presenting its warmest thanks to the Earl of Shaftesbury for his great kindness in presiding on the present occasion, desires to express its gratitude to the Almighty that the affliction under which his lordship was suffering when presiding last year has passed away, and earnestly prays that his lordship's life may long be spared to raise his voice for the oppressed, to mitigate the sufferings of the poor, and to be a model for the nobles of our land."

## THE CHIMNEY SWEEPERS AND THEIR SUFFERINGS.

A QUARTER of a century since the then Lord Ashley brought under the notice of the House of Commons the awful condition of the chimney sweepers of London and other great towns, and succeeded in getting the Bill he brought in passed into a law. Like many other good Acts, it was for a time dormant, and, when pressed home to suppress the evils, was evaded as much as possible. The evasion still continuing, the object of the same nobleman, in bringing the subject before the House of Peers, is to make the old law effective, by making it almost, if not quite, impossible to evade it. On Friday, June 4th, Lord Shaftesbury moved the second reading of his Bill; and on that occasion said:—

"I had hoped I should have been saved the necessity of troubling your lordships at any length on this Bill, but having heard that some objections are entertained to its provisions, I feel it to be my duty to state the principles of the existing law, the necessity for it, and the provisions I wish to make for carrying that law more effectually into operation. The Bill which I have laid on the table does not contain any new principle. It contains only provisions to give effect to the law already existing. In 1840 a Committee was appointed in this House out of which came a Bill which completely prohibited the system of climbing-boys, and if that law had been observed there would have been no necessity for this measure. In 1853 I introduced a Bill for the purpose of rendering the law more operative. The Bill was referred to a Select Committee up-stairs, and although we examined thirteen witnesses, every one of whom bore testimony to the necessity of the law, yet it was not allowed to proceed any further, the Committee simply declaring that it was not expedient. Now, both these Bills set forth in the clearest manner the enormity of the system and the great cruelty inflicted on children engaged under it. They also set forth the sufficiency of the remedy and the entire safety of it. In 1862 a Commission was appointed to inquire into the various trades in which children were engaged. The Commission took evidence on the state of climbing-boys, confirming everything that had gone before, only that the evils were greater in amount and intensity than existed in former times. It is the evidence that was then adduced I am now about to bring before your lordships, in order to show the absolute necessity of the provisions I propose; and let me say that, revolting and disgusting as the evidence in the report is, the facts stated in the appendix are ten times more so. As to the age at which these children are generally forced into this work, the concurrent testimony of all is that the usual age is from 6 to 8. There are many instances of 5, and even 4½ years. The hours of working in the smaller towns are 8 and 9, in the larger towns 12 to 16; and for the greater part the work begins at 4, 3, and even 2 o'clock in the morning. This shows the cruelty of the system as affecting children of such tender years and such delicate frames engaged in this disgusting and revolting employment. Sixty-three witnesses were examined by the Commissioners. They came from all parts of England, and 33 of them were master sweeps. Let me give your lordships some examples of the evidence they adduced to show the extreme cruelty of the system, and the abominations to which these poor children are subjected. The first evidence I shall quote comes from a master sweep in Nottingham, Mr. Ruff, and his testimony may be taken, the Commissioners state, and so says Mr. Ruff himself, from great experience, as a very fair sample of what is going on in various parts of the country. He says:

—'No one knows the cruelty which a boy has to undergo in learning. The flesh must be hardened. This is done by rubbing it, chiefly on the elbows and knees, with the strongest brine, close by a hot fire. You must stand over them with a cane, or coax them by a promise of a halfpenny, &c., if they will stand a few more rubs. At first they will come back from their work with their arms and knees streaming with blood, and the knees looking as if the caps had been pull'ed off; then they must be rubbed with brine again.'

"This painful description, the Commissioners observe, they would have hesitated to record, but that it was so amply confirmed by the testimony of many practical witnesses from all parts of the country. Mr. Clark, another master sweep, says:—'If, as often happens, a boy is gloomy, or sleepy, or anywise "linty" [I do not know the meaning of this expression], and you have other jobs on at the same time, though I should be as kind as I could, you must ill-treat him somehow, either with the hand or brush, or something. It is remembering the cruelty which I have suffered which makes me so strong against boys being employed. I have the marks of it on my body now, and I believe the biggest part of the sweeps in the town have the same; that (showing a deep scar across the bottom of the calf of the leg) was made by a blow from my master with an ash plant—*i.e.*, a young ash-tree that is supple and will not break—when I was six years old; it was cut to the bone, which had to be scraped to heal the wound; I have marks of nailed boots, &c., on other parts. It was a common thing with sweeps to speak of "breaking-in a boy." If he was hard, like a ground road or a stone, they gave it up. The other sweeps and I do not like to think of our children growing up to such a business. I believe that in every respect, except the sleeping department and washing, the condition of the boys is now as bad as ever as to treatment, perhaps worse, as the men who have boys are only the least respectable.'

"The evidence of Mr. Elton, a chimney-sweeper at Basingstoke, is to the same effect. He says:—'Some boys are more awkward and suffer more; but all are scarred and wounded.' James Brawn, a journeyman at Winchester, says:—'Some chimneys are rough, and, of course, that skins you on the elbows and back; some put pads on the knees if you are very bad; saltpetre, what they call brine, is the only way of getting over it. I remember very well having that rubbed on every morning and night.' Mr. P. Hall mentions a child not more than seven or eight years old, at Birmingham, who could scarcely walk from sores and bruises received in climbing. But the treatment they receive in the course of their training is not the only hardship these young children have to endure. Let us look at what they have to undergo in the process of their work. They are subjected to cruel usage from their masters, and it is a remarkable fact that all the witnesses concur in stating that it is the most cruel masters who persist in refusing to use the sweeping machines. Many of the children are seriously burnt in consequence of being compelled to ascend the flues on fire, and others are killed or maimed. One case occurred at Ashton-under-Lyne, where a child of seven was burnt badly; and at Preston a boy was severely flogged by his master for refusing to go a second time into a hot boiler flue. Mr. Michael Brown, coroner for the borough of Nottingham, states that he held two inquests on climbing-boys; in one case the fire was burning, and something was put over the still hot fireplace to enable the boy to rest his feet on at starting. In this case Mr. Brown attributed the death partly to the air in the chimney not being fit for breathing. A hole was broken in the wall to get the boy out. In the other case the master had lit straw under the chimney to bring the boy down, as it was supposed he was asleep, when in reality he was dead. Even within the last two years (the Commissioners say) a child lost his life in the west-end of London, having 'stuck' in the chimney. According to Mr. Peacock,

of Burslem, Mr. Herries, of Leicester, has collected twenty-three cases of boys who have been killed in chimneys by being stifled since the Act of 1840 was passed. I am sorry to detain your lordships with these details, but it is essentially necessary that I should give you the authority on which I make these statements: and I beg of you to recollect for whom I am now pleading. Mr. Richard Stansfield, a master sweep at Manchester, says:—'Why, I myself have kept a lad four hours up a chimney, when he was so sore that he could scarcely move; but I wouldn't let him come down till he had finished; it has often made my heart ache to hear them wail, even when I was what you may call a party to it. In learning a child, you can't be soft with him, you must use violence. I shudder now when I think of it. I have gone to bed with my knee and elbow scabbed and raw, and the inside of my thighs all scarified; we slept five and six boys together in a sort of cellar with the soot bags over us, sticking in the wound sometimes; that and some straw were all our bed and bedclothes; they were the same bags we had used in the day, wet or dry.'

"Some are burnt, some suffocated, some tortured and half killed, or quite killed, when stuck in a chimney, by the very means used to extricate them. Some are drawn out at the top and some at the bottom of the chimney, and a case is mentioned by Mr. Ruff, of Nottingham, in which a boy was smothered in a chimney there; and the doctor (he added) who opened his body (naming him) said that they had pulled the boy's heart and liver all out of place in dragging him down. So much for their hours of work. What for their hours of so-called repose? A large proportion of them are lodged in low, ill-drained, ill-ventilated, and noisome cellars. They 'sleep black'—that is, they lie unwashed for the whole week, perhaps for many weeks. Hence that most frightful disorder called the chimney-sweep's cancer—a disease which I will not seek to describe to your lordships further than to say that, having witnessed it, I have never seen a more terrible form of physical suffering. It almost always proves fatal. I come now to the moral condition of these children. On Sundays, in a great many instances, they are shut up altogether, that their neighbours may not see their miserable plight. The moral and intellectual state of boys so trained and treated must necessarily be degraded to the lowest possible point. Out of 384 boys examined by Mr. P. Hall, that witness says he found 'only six who could write, and 26 who could read, most of them very imperfectly.' 'They never go even to Sunday School,' says one: 'they do not get a chance,' says another. There may be an exception here and there; but what more striking estimate could we have of the low, despised, brute condition in which these children are kept, or of how completely they are overlooked and degraded by the community, and regarded as mere pariahs for administering to the wants and comforts of the wealthier classes, than that furnished by the remark of a lady to Mr. Ruff? 'Formerly,' says Mr. Ruff, 'the sweeps, as they said themselves, had three washes a year—viz., at Whitsuntide, Goose Fair (October), and Christmas; but now they are quite different. This is owing a great deal, I think, to a rule which we brought about of taking no orders after twelve mid-day, and washing then. The object of this was to let the boys go to school in the afternoon. At first most did, but they do not now. A lady complained of this to me, because she could not get her chimney done, and said, "A chimney-sweep, indeed, wanting education! what next?"'

"Good heavens! my lords, I say that the woman who could speak in that way of a human being with reference to his temporal and eternal interests is a woman who would cut up a child for dogs'-meat or for making manure. (Hear, hear.) In the worst days of slavery a more disgusting sentiment, or one more offensive both to God and man, could hardly have been uttered than that implied in this woman's

'What next?' There is also a regular traffic in these children. They are constantly bought and sold. Mr. Jones, of the Midland Association, read a paper before a meeting on Social Science, in which he stated that 'in the country, young children are bargained for by their parents and master sweeps; they are bought and sold; and the more tender their age, the more valuable they are considered.' Mr. E. S. Ellis, a magistrate of Leicester, says:—'I am satisfied that great numbers of children are bought and sold, and that, practically, they are as much slaves as any negro children in South Carolina.' Mr. Francis Peacock, of Burslem, says:—'I have bought lads myself. I used to give the parents so much a year for them. In Liverpool, where there are lots of bad women, you can get any quantity you want.' This system in the provinces generally, with some exceptions, is very largely on the increase. And here I may pause for a moment to ask your lordships by what social right or by what law of God you take these children of such tender years, who can have no will of their own, and who derive no benefit from the trade, because they receive no wages—their clothing does not deserve the name, and their food is of the scantiest character—and compel them to enter upon a career the most filthy and the most degrading, physically and morally, it is possible to conceive? In that career they suffer during all their tenderest years, and when they emerge into manhood—I mean, of course, those of them who survive so long—they find themselves crippled in body and mind, and without knowledge or ability of any kind. Under such circumstances can you wonder that a large proportion of them, when they arrive at manhood, are found either in gaol or upon the gibbet? If, when taken possession of, they had reached their riper years, and were able to judge for themselves, they might have made their own bargain, and entered upon the career with a full knowledge of what was before them; but I ask you, in the name of God, what right you have to impose upon human beings, as good and as responsible as yourselves, having the same rights, the same hopes, and the same destinies, so degrading, so filthy, and so disgusting an occupation? This is mere wanton cruelty, for, as the evidence proves, it is totally unnecessary. (Hear, hear.) I should have thought that the evidence taken before the Commission of 1840 would have satisfied every one of the efficacy of the machine if properly used. Before the Committee of 1853, when my Bill was on the table, thirteen witnesses deposed to that fact without a single dissentient voice. Even that Committee of 1853, which declared that it was not expedient my Bill should be proceeded with, gave it as their opinion that the machine was capable of doing the work assigned to it, and was even safer than the climbing-boys. The present evidence proves the same thing at great length. The universal testimony is, that every chimney, however angular or tortuous, can be swept by the machine, provided occasionally that, at a very small expense, apertures called soot-doors are opened at certain places. It is obvious, indeed, that the machine must do the work better than a boy. A boy avoids every hole and corner he can, and gets through the business as speedily as possible, whereas the machine goes into every nook, and does the work thoroughly and well. But the masters do not like the machine, because it imposes upon them a certain amount of labour, whereas, under the climbing system, the poor boy has to go through all the toil. In this metropolis itself you have two remarkable instances of the efficacy of the machine, in the Athenæum and the Bank of England. The chimney of the Bank of England is a most peculiar structure; it has six different angles, and yet it is swept effectually by the machine. So also with the chimney of the Athenæum. But I am now speaking after an experience of twenty-one years, and I have further proofs to submit to your lordships. The climbing system has been suppressed altogether in Edinburgh for

thirty years by the action of bye-laws, and it has also been totally suppressed in Glasgow. In Bath, with its thousands of tall chimneys, it is extinct, and it no longer exists in the town of Leicester or in the Potteries. There is an enormous population among whom it has been suppressed, without any injurious consequences whatever. But I have a stronger proof still. In this huge metropolis the machine has been used for twenty-one years. 'As the experience of London,' say the Commissioners, 'is so important in the solution of this question, the number of houses being about one-tenth of those in England and Wales, it appears desirable briefly to explain the facts of this case. According to the census of 1861, the total number of houses in the metropolis was 379,222, and in 1851 it was 327,391, thus showing an annual increase in the number of houses of 5,183. Allowing on an average six chimneys to a house, the total number of chimneys may be estimated at 2,375,332, all of which, with some few exceptions, are swept by the machine.'

"Is it necessary to ask for more proof? Everybody in London is satisfied with the work the machine does. But we have also the testimony of the late Mr. Braidwood, Superintendent of the London Fire-engine Establishment, who said that no risk whatever would attend the discontinuance of the use of boys for sweeping chimneys, provided where the machine could not sweep them there were doors made by which they could be swept. Captain Shaw, the present Superintendent of the Fire-engine Establishment, was likewise requested to give the result of his experience. 'We are indebted to Captain Shaw,' say the Commissioners, 'for a very instructive table, showing the total number of fires from all causes, and the number caused by flues, in each year from 1833 to 1862. From this document it appears that while the total number of fires has increased with the increase of new houses, the proportion of fires caused by flues to the total number has considerably diminished, the average percentage in the 10 years previous to the application of the Act (namely, 1833-42) amounting to 11·8, while the average percentage of the 20 years subsequently (1843-62) was only 8·6; the highest percentage in any one year being 15·5—namely, in 1833—and the lowest 6·4, in 1861. We have received similar information from the surveyors of some of the principal London assurance companies; and we are therefore satisfied that all fears of the increased risk of fire from the abolition of climbing boys are entirely without foundation.'

"That being the state of things, every one being satisfied that the machine could be used with safety, it is desirable to inquire into the causes and modes of the violation of the Act. *I am bound to say, at the outset, that the master-sweeps are not principally to blame. No doubt there are some who dislike the trouble of the machine, but the vast majority, go where you will, are most anxious to get rid of the climbing system. It is the householders, and especially the great people, who keep it up, declaring that no power on earth would induce them to allow a machine to enter their premises. These are the persons who, in spite of the law, will have children to go up their chimneys.* (Hear, hear.) Everywhere you have one and the same testimony. One master says:—'The use of boys is much encouraged by the fact that many householders will have their chimneys swept by boys instead of machines. I have myself lost a good deal of custom which I should otherwise have, and some which I formerly had, at large houses and public establishments, because I will not use boys. That reason was not given, but I was not employed after I refused. I have been sent away even from magistrates' houses, and in some cases even by ladies, who have professed to pity the boys, for refusing to use them.'

"Many householders refuse to alter their flues, or to incur the smallest expense for putting in soot-doors, and persist in setting the law at defiance. The whole

burden of the evidence of the Committee of 1853, and of this Commission, goes to prove the determination of the magistrates, with some exceptions, not to carry the law into effect. They may not go the length of saying that they will not convict, although it is reported they have done even that in some instances, but they take good care to prevent convictions by demanding evidence of such a kind that it is next to impossible it should be produced, and dismissing cases with rebuke and even insult to the prosecutors. Even where there is a grave charge, it is too often treated with lightness, and acquittals are granted in the face of the most conclusive testimony the other way. Thus it happens that of the hundreds of cases which are annually brought before the magistrates, only a small percentage result in convictions. Then, again, we have also, I think, reason to complain of the builders of houses. By a section of the Act of 1840 it was ordered that flues should be constructed in such a manner that machinery could be used, and the services of climbing boys dispensed with. As far as we can learn, however, the builders have pertinaciously refused to obey that provision of the statute. Scarcely any chimneys have been constructed as directed, and the consequence is that this pretext still remains for the employment of climbers. One builder, indeed—Mr. Cubitt, of Belgravia—deserves to mentioned as a noble exception, for he strictly carried out the Act, and built all his chimneys in such a way that the occupants of the houses to which they are attached never think of sending up boys, for they know the work can be done more speedily, effectually, and conveniently by machinery. (Hear, hear.) Not only, my lords, is this a matter of very serious importance, involving the temporal, and I may say the eternal, condition of these youths; but it is one that really concerns the political character of the country. These things of which I have been speaking are done, in the main, for the use and comfort of the wealthier classes, and you may depend upon it that a rankling feeling is kept up in the mind of the people by the thought of a system which is a scandal to a civilized country. (Hear, hear.) If your lordships reject the proposal I have now the honour to submit, you will be perpetrating a system more cruel and disgraceful than almost anything I know of—a system which, however it may be connived at, and however it may be palliated, cannot be justified—a system which day by day and week by week leads persons of all conditions to violate the law and outrage their sense of humanity. (Hear, hear.) Your lordships must remember that I am not seeking to establish any new principle. I am asking only for the means of giving effect to a principle which has already been affirmed, and which is quite in accordance with the spirit of modern legislation, in alleviating toil and suffering. I well recollect how, when I was engaged in carrying my measure of factory reform, the most terrible predictions were uttered as to the ruin alike of employers, parents, and children which must befall them. Now I hear nothing but praise on all sides; and I cannot express the joy I felt when a master manufacturer said to me, 'I opposed you tooth-and-nail as long as I could; but now the law is passed, take my advice, for God's sake, and do not part with a hair's-breadth of it, for it is a measure which must do great good to the people, and can do no harm to the employers.' (Hear, hear.) I appeal to you now on behalf of another class of weak and suffering humanity. I ask you to protect, not adults, who can take care of themselves, but the helpless young, many of them orphans, and some the offspring of cruel and unnatural parents. The other evening your lordships were engaged in discussing the intellectual progress of the children of the upper classes—a very right and proper subject of debate. But now you have to consider whether a small and humble ray of light shall be allowed to fall on the children of the poorest and most unhappy in the land. I pray you, my lords, not to reject this Bill. I entreat you

to show your goodness and consideration for these unfortunate children by granting them the repose, leisure, and opportunity necessary to enable them, by the blessing of God, to acquire such secular learning as may give them the possibility of a life of industry, honesty, and comfort in this world, and above all to attain that religious knowledge which alone can make a man wise and just." (Cheers.)

After this speech, the House went into Committee on the Bill, and the various clauses were considered, which, with some amendments, were agreed to.

# Poetry.

## THE HYMN OF THE POOREST.

I.

THE poorest of the poor are we,
But precious are our souls to Thee,
Whom, though thou art the Lord of all,
Our heavenly Father we may call.

If meanly clad and sparely fed,
Give us this day our daily bread;
For all that live, and move, and are,
In providence thy bounty share.

To thee when the young ravens cry,
Thy hands their humble wants supply:
Alike on thee, their unknown friend,
The lion and the lamb depend.

Thine air, thy sunshine, dews, and showers
In season, make the lily's flowers
More beautiful to look upon
Than on his throne King Solomon.

The widow, old and desolate,
The orphan in his low estate,
The slave, the outcast of mankind,
Thee their almighty helper find.

II.

O God, most merciful and just,
Shall we not put in thee our trust,
In grief and pain, to calm our fears,
Comfort our hearts and wipe our tears?

All times and everywhere thine eye
Looks down upon us from the sky;
Could we look up by light divine,
Ours might be ever fixed on thine.

While every word we speak, thine ear
Through all creation's sounds can hear;
By ours, if open to thy word,
Thy voice from heaven would now be heard.

Moment on moment, breath by breath,
Our pilgrim-life draws nearer death;
Each breath, each moment, may we be
More meet for immortality.

# Notices of Meetings.

### NEWINGTON.

THE ninth annual meeting of these Schools was held on May 30th, at the National School-room, Newington. President, Ambrose Boyson, Esq.

An interesting and impressive opening speech was delivered by the Chairman, who expressed his warm sympathy with the object of the meeting, and his pleasure in seeing so many Christians of all denominations meeting in so good a cause.

The Hon. Sec. read the report, which stated that the average number of children attending the Day School during the year was 100, being 36 boys and 66 girls. The Sunday Evening Service had been well attended and progressed favourably. The Penny Bank receipts were £10 14s. 6d., which had been paid in by 112 depositors, but there were now only 52 on the books. A small amount had been paid during the year as interest. The Girls' Working Class was generally well attended and was steadily

advancing. Two of the children had received prizes from the Ragged School Union.

The Rev. J. G. Pilkinton, in an earnest address, moved the adoption of the report.

The Rev. J. M'Connell Hussey seconded, and in a very practical manner urged upon them that something more was wanting than mere sympathy, namely, the cordial help of all Christians in this good work, and he hoped that they would give a hearty response to the appeal for aid at the collection.

Judge Payne moved that the Committee and officers be re-elected. In doing so he moved that Ragged Schools were progressing, and that the children were becoming elevated. The children who attended them, instead of being noisy, loved their teachers, and were therefore quiet and attentive, and he concluded with his 1,998th tail-piece, which afforded great amusement to his hearers.

The Rev. John Jessopp, chaplain of Horsemonger Lane Goal, seconded.

Mr. W. H. Watson remarked that he had studied the poorer class of the metropolis, and, making a very wide calculation, there were more than 200,000 children who never entered a school. This state of things must not continue, the only preventive being the Ragged School.

The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon was the last gentleman who addressed the meeting. His remarks were listened to throughout with great attention. He said he loved the name of "Ragged School." There was something in it beautiful, and he asked them not to be afraid of a dirty child, for each one was acceptable to God, and each had a soul to be saved. They should bring them to the Ragged School, where they might be taught the way to everlasting life, and learn something to make them useful in this world, and he urged upon those who were able to become teachers to this school. The Rev. gentleman then concluded, promising to attend their meeting next year, and placed a liberal subscription in the plate.

CHARLES STREET.

THE annual meeting of Charles Street, Drury Lane, Ragged School was held on the 25th April, in the Boys' School-room. Alderman Sir Robert Carden presided. The Secretary read the Report, which stated that the repairs and enlargements and general improvements of the school building have been carried out at a cost of about £190. Most of this amount has been collected, but there is still a balance of about £40 which remains to be subscribed. The children in the neighbourhood have been cleansed, clothed, and educated, and much good has been effected with the parents, as well as with their neglected offspring. Eleven girls have received prizes from the Ragged School Union, for retaining their situations twelve months, and general approbation has been expressed by those who have taken them into their employ. The Mothers' Meeting, Industrial Class for Girls, and Band of Hope Meetings, have been carried on as usual. The Penny Bank has had deposited in it the sum of £6 16s. 10d. Great exertions will be necessary to increase the funds of the current year, as the income will be reduced about £36, in consequence of the discontinuance for the present of the Annual Bazaar. The Report concluded by expressing the heartfelt thanks of the Committee to Almighty God for past blessings, and trusts in a continuance of his gracious approval.

The Chairman then briefly addressed the meeting for a short time, and in speaking of the sin and degradation that abound, and the unmistakable utility of Ragged Schools in suppressing crime, stated that he had just walked down Charles Street, and asked a little fellow in rags and dirt, whom he met, where his father was. "Locked up for stealing," the boy answered. A short time since he saw a little girl in a ragged condition drinking something out of a bottle, which she seemed greatly to enjoy. He was astonished and grieved to find it was brandy.

S. D. Waddy, Esq., B.A., the Rev. G. W. McCree, the Rev. Francis Tucker, B.A., J. Girdlestone, Esq., Mr. B. B. Wake, Mr. Silas Tucker, and Mr. Curtis, addressed the meeting.

# RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

## FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

PRESIDENT.—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.
TREASURER.—R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq., Lombard Street, E.C.
HON. SEC.—MR. W. LOCKE. HON. SOLICITOR.—E. JENNINGS, Esq.
SECRETARY.—MR. JOSEPH G. GENT, 1, Exeter Hall, W.C.
COLLECTOR.—MR. WILLIAM A. BLAKE, 38, South Bank, N.W.
BANKERS.—MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & CO., 54, Lombard Street.

The following contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union, from the 20th of May to the 20th of June 1864:—

### General Fund.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Anderson, Mrs. Wright | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Arnet, H., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Austin, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Baker, Colonel Onslow | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Barnet, Mr. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Beckford, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Beckford, F. L., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Boetefuer, Mrs. | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Bostick, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Burchett, J. R., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Burn, A., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Burrowes, E. H., Esq. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Buxton, Travers, Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Caldbeck, Captain | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Chowles, Mrs. E. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Cochrane, Admiral Sir F. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Cockerell, Miss (box) | 1 | 19 | 6 |
| Cooper, Miss | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Cuff, C., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Denison, W., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Donation from an Annual Subscriber | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Duthoit, Miss, coll. by | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| Ellis, G. H., Esq. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Evered, Miss | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Farron, T. R., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Forbes, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Grain, W., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Greenwood, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Grenside, Misses | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| H. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hall, Mrs. A. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Hawkins, Miss Jane | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Heathcote, J. E., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Herries, Farquhar, & Co., per Messrs. | 98 | 7 | 0 |
| Hill, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Horncastle, J., Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Hughes, W. H., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| "It is more blessed to give than to receive" | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Irvine, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Jackson, Miss | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Kearey, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Keating, Sir Justice | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Kincaid, G. W., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Le Blanc, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Littledale, H., Esq. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Locke, Mr. James (box) | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mackeratty, Mrs. | 0 | 10 | 6 |
| Manns, Ann | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Minton, Rev. T. W. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Montagu, Major | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Mower, Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Newsham, Miss | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Noyes, J., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Ogle, Mrs. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Paley, Mrs. G. B. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Powell, Miss | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Powell, Mr. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Prior, Miss E. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| P. X. | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Pym, Mrs. G. G. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Reade, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Rebbeck, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Riddell, Mrs. J. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Robertson, Miss | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Seely, Charles, Esq., M.P. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Seymour, H. D., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Shakespear, Miss | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Silver, S. W., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sims, J., Esq. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Smythe, Colonel | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Snashall, Mr. and Mrs. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Stuart, W., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| "To carry into effect the wishes of a deceased brother," per Miss Bulgin | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Toller, John, Esq. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Troughton, E. J., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Webb, R. T., Esq. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Wilkinson, Miss | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Wilkinson, Miss F. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Z. | 1 | 1 | 0 |

### Excursion Fund.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boetefuer, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Dawson, Mrs. | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Hughes, W. H., Esq. | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| McAll, Mrs. | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Sale of Strawberries | 0 | 9 | 0 |

### Christmas Dinner.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boetefuer, Mrs. | 2 | 0 | 0 |

### School Fund.

*Bluegate Fields.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Boetefuer Mrs. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Parkinson, W. C., Esq. | 5 | 0 | 0 |

*Cripples' Home.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| McAll, Mrs. | 2 | 10 | 0 |

*Dove Row.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sperling, J., Esq. | 3 | 0 | 0 |

*Field Lane.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| M. C. | 0 | 1 | 0 |

*Lamb and Flag.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Findelay, George, Esq. | 0 | 10 | 0 |

*Ragged Church and Chapel Union.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Richardson, Mrs. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Webber Row.*

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| R. | 1 | 0 | 0 |

# The Furnishing of Bedrooms.

HEAL & SON having observed for some time that it would be advantageous to their customers to see a much larger selection of Bedroom Furniture than is usually displayed, and that to judge properly of the style and effect of the different descriptions of furniture, it is necessary that each description should be placed in a separate room, have erected large and Additional Show-rooms, by which they will be enabled, not only to extend their show of Iron, Brass, and Wood Bedsteads, and Bedroom Furniture, beyond what they believe has ever been attempted, but also to provide several small rooms for the purpose of keeping complete suites of Bedroom Furniture in the different styles.

Japanned Deal Goods may be seen in Complete Suites of five or six different colours—some of them light and ornamental, and others of a plainer description. Suites of Stained Deal Gothic Furniture, Polished Deal, Oak, and Walnut, are also set apart in separate rooms, so that customers are able to see the effect as it would appear in their own rooms. A suite of very superior Gothic Oak Furniture will generally be kept in stock, and from time to time new and select Furniture in various woods will be added.

Bed Furnitures are fitted to the Bedsteads in large numbers, so that a complete assortment may be seen, and the effect of any particular pattern ascertained as it would appear on the Bedstead.

A very large stock of Bedding (HEAL and SON'S original trade) is placed on the Bedsteads.

The stock of Mahogany Goods for the better Bedrooms, and Japanned Goods for plain and Servants' use, is very greatly increased. The entire Stock is arranged in eight rooms, six galleries, each 120 feet long, and two large ground floors, the whole forming as complete an assortment of Bedroom Furniture as, they think, can possibly be desired.

Every attention is paid to the manufacture of the Cabinet work, and they have just erected large Workshops on the premises for this purpose, that the manufacture may be under their own immediate care.

Their Bedding trade receives their constant and personal attention, every article being made on the premises.

They particularly call attention to their Patent Spring Mattress, the Sommier Elastique Portatif. It is portable, durable, and elastic, and lower in price than the old Spring Mattress.

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## HEAL AND SON'S

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF

## Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bedroom Furniture,

*Sent free by Post.*

196, 197, 198, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD.

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